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## Arroyo to switch on P8B plant to boost Visayas power supply

BY CARLA GOMEZ

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will lead this morning in the commissioning of the P8 billion Northern Negros Geothermal Power Plant in Mailum, Bago, the country's first merchant power plant to be operated under a deregulated power system.

The plant will also further boost the Philippines ranking as the world's second largest geothermal producer, and benefit 800,000 households in the Visayas grid, the Philippine National Oil Co.-- Energy Development Corp. said.

The president will arrive in Bacolod at 10 a.m. with Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, Presidential Chief of Staff of Michael Defensor and Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella.

In the reception party at the Bacolod airport will be Gov. Joseph Marañon, Rep. Ignacio Arroyo (Neg. Occ., 5th district), Bacolod Mayor Evelio Leonardia, Presidential Adviser for Western Visayas Rafael Coscolluela, Chief Supt. Wilfredo Dulay - PNP 6 regional director and Maj. Gen. Victor Ibrado - 3rd Infantry Division commander.

Senior Supt. Rosendo Franco, Negros Occidental police director, said the police are on red alert for the visit of the president, which is standard operating procedure.

Aside from the commissioning of the geothermal plant, the president, on her arrival at the Bacolod airport, is expected to have a brief meeting with the mayors of the third district of Negros Occidental.

She will also attend the inauguration of the TeleTech call center in Bacolod City where a P200,000 scholarship grant for Bacolod City colleges and a P5 million grant for an English proficiency program spread over a three year period will be presented.

The president will also attend the inauguration of the Teresita Lopez Jalandoni Provincial Hospital in Silay City.

But during her brief visit to Negros, she is scheduled to deliver a statement only at the NNGPP affair.

A fact sheet from PNOC-EDC said its 49 MW Northern Negros Geothermal Production Field spans 169 hectares and lies between Bago City and Murcia town, 69 kilometers from Bacolod City.

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The project was financed through an Overseas Development Assistance loan granted by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

With a capacity of 49 MW, the plant is expected to supply the power needs of Panay to augment the present supply coming from the Palinpinon Geothermal Power Plant in Valencia, Oriental Negros.

The NNGPP operation will bring several advantages to the Visayas grid, the PNOC-EDC fact sheet said.

The NNGPP will reduce the load of the Leyte-Cebu submarine cable during peak period, allow other generating units in the Cebu-Negros and Panay grid to conduct maintenance;

Voltage along the Bacolod 138 KV line that is currently below the regulation level at 133.32 KV will be converted to the nominal level of 138 KV;

Systems loss within the Visayas grid will be reduced with the plant's generation of MVAR to regulate voltage at the Bacolod substation connection point;

In case the Leyte-Cebu submarine cable incurs outage resulting in the isolation of Negros-Panay sub-grids the plant can supply the requirements of Negros and Panay; and Diesel plants in Panay can be displaced by the NNGPP resulting in savings in fuel cost.\*CPG

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